

CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i).—ALTERATION OF AREA.

During the year alterations in the area of the State forests were effected as shown in Form No. 46. The following abstract statement shows the result of these changes :—

Class of Forests.	Area on 1st July 1896.		Added during the year.		Excluded or transferred during the year.		Area on 30th June 1897.		REMARKS.
	Sq. m.	a.	Sq. m.	a.	Sq. m.	a.	Sq. m.	a.	
Reserved forests...	1,184	385	8	153	1	383	1,191	155	
Protected do. ...	434	48	.....		0	19	434	29	
Leased do. ...	678	320	.....		.....		678	320	
Total ...	2,297	113	8	153	1	402	2,303	504	

(ii).—FOREST SETTLEMENT.

2. Mr. Orr, I.C.S., was virtually the Forest Settlement Officer in Tháná from 1st July 1896 to 28th February 1897. On the 7th July he fell ill and was compelled to take two months' privilege leave. Mr. MacIver, of the Survey Department, took over the office during this period. On his return from leave Mr. Orr was again in charge, and till about the end of October had no other work. At the end of October Mr. Orr was made Assistant Collector, Poona, but continued in charge of the Settlement Office, in addition to his own duties, till the end of February. On 1st March the charge of the Settlement Office was transferred to Mr. Hudson, I.C.S., First Assistant Collector, Bassein Sub-division, in addition to his own duties, who has held it to the end of the year.

3. The settlement and demarcation proposals of the Dáhánu, Umbargaon and Murbád Ranges, which were submitted to Government, were sanctioned by them during the year under Government Resolutions Nos. 4934 and 5052, dated 1st and 6th July 1897, of Revenue Department, respectively.

4. Areas, as detailed below, were obtained by purchase and exchange during the year :—

	A.	g.	Rs.	a.	p.
Acquired by payment of compensation ...	885	30	10,420	1	9
Do. by exchange ...	...	...	...	...	...

5. The following statement gives the details of cost of Forest Settlement Officer and his establishment during the year :—

Division.	FOREST SETTLEMENT OFFICER.		OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT.		Contingencies.	Total.
	Pay.	Travelling Allowance.	Pay.	Travelling Allowance.		
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
Tháná ...	3,814 1 2	405 5 2	1,980 9 10	432 5 10	283 13 6	6,946 3 6

6. The following is the summary of outstanding work in the Tháná Divisions :—

Names of Ranges.	STAGES OF OUTSTANDING WORK.								REMARKS.
	Occupied Lands to be acquired.				Land to be notified under Section 4.	Land to be settled under Section 7.	Land to be notified under Section 19.	Total.	
	By exchange or Compensation.		Land to be notified under Acquisition Act.						
	Negotiation proceeding.	Negotiation completed.	Land notified but not acquired.	To be notified.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	
<i>South Tháná.</i>									
Sálssette ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kalyán ... ..	...	0 8	44 19	15 39	...	62 19	...	123 5	
Bhiwndi	16 8½	...	...	...	...	0 12½	...	16 21½	
Murbád ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sháhápúr ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	16 8½	0 8	44 19	15 39	...	62 31½	...	139 26½	
<i>Central Tháná.</i>									
Khardi ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,382 0	2,382 0	
Bassein	5 37½	...	1 28½	0 17½	...	4 21	...	12 24½	
Vádá ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mokháda	1 34	6 28	...	...	1 15	69 12	...	79 9	
Total	7 31½	6 28	1 28½	0 17½	1 15	73 33	2,382 0	2,473 33½	
<i>North Tháná.</i>									
Tálasri No. I ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. No. II ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Máhim	28 17½	24 15½	2 33½	*38 6½	27 35½	33 25½	...	155 13½	*Notification for lands in column 5 submitted.
Díhánu	16 4	...	3 18½	...	75 12½	53 17	...	148 12	†Notification for 63 acres and 1½ guntas submitted under Section 4.
Umbargaon ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	44 21½	24 15½	6 11½	38 6½	103 8½	87 2½	...	303 25½	
Grand Total	68 21½	31 11½	52 19½	54 23	104 23½	223 27½	2,382 0	2,917 5½	

7. As in previous year Mr. Orr was allowed this year also to make his monsoon head-quarters at Poona.

8. The following are the details of the work performed by the Forest Settlement Officer :—

(1). While on leave Mr. Orr worked at his Sháhápúr Demarcation Report, for which purpose he had taken the papers with him to England, from where he sent intimations of points that wanted clearing up, so that everything was worked out in the office and ready for him when he arrived.

(2). The rains were also devoted to the correction of the revision survey village maps of the Máhim and Bassein Tálukas, after comparing them with the office village maps.

(3). Decisions in Sháhápúr settlement proceedings, in which the enquiries had already been held, were written.

(4). The revision of the Mámlatdárs' forest registers of Bhiwndi and Mokháda were also taken in hand and finished.

(5). Sháhápúr acquisition work was proceeding and was nearly completed.

9. As the settlement work of the Tháná District was almost completed, the office and field establishments were discharged except the Shirastedár and one peon.

10. In the Surat District during the year the revision settlement of the Mándvi Range was commenced by Mr. Wood, but the proposals made by him are still under consideration of the local Revenue officers.

(iii).—DEMARCATIION.

11. The progress made in clearing boundaries and erecting boundary-marks with cost is given in the following statement :—

Division.	Length of Boundary in miles.	NUMBER OF CAIRNS ERECTED.		Amount spent.	Rate per mile.	REMARKS.
		Large.	Small.			
		Boundary marked with cairns.				
				Rs. a. p.		
North Tháná ...	88	472	1,131	1,598 6 0	18·2	
Central Tháná ...	77	873	...	816 15 6	10·6	
South Tháná ...	38½	740	...	730 1 0	19·08	
Surat ...	20¾	643	11	480 12 0	22·9	
Total ...	224	2,728	1,142	3,626 2 6	16·01	
		Boundary cleared.				
North Tháná ...	14½	...	...	328 11 0	22·7	
Surat ...	6	...	...	435 12 0	72·6	
Panch Maháls ...	15½	...	...	423 9 0	27·3	
Total ...	36	...	...	1,188 0 0	33·	
Grand Total ...	260	...	...	4,814 2 6	18·5	

North Tháná'.

12. The high rate is reported to be due to wages in both the cairn-erecting and line-cutting operations having been paid at the rate of annas four instead of three owing to scarcity in the district. The demarcation was only carried on in the Máhim Range, and it is nearly half finished.

Central Tháná'.

13. The lower rate in Central Tháná is due to the prescribed lower rate of wages paid to labourers in the Vádá Range, where the demarcation was carried on and completed. No line-cutting was done in this division.

South Tháná'.

14. The very high rate in this division is due partly to high wages paid and partly to scarcity of stones in the localities where the demarcation was carried on, so that they had to be brought from long distances. The demarcation was carried on in the Sálsette, Bhiwndi and Kalyán Ranges. No line-cutting was done in this division,

Surat.

15. The rate paid for erecting cairns, 22·9, is high, but considering the scarcity of stones in the places where the work was done, *viz.*, Bulsár and Chikhli, the rate is reasonable. For line-cutting, which was done in the Mándvi Range, the rate was 72·5; but the width of the line cut along the frontier of the Barōda State chiefly as a fire break, was 100 feet, or nearly 6 times wider than in North Tháná and 3 times wider than in the Panch Maháls Division. Much demarcation work in the interior of the Mándvi Range remains to be done, but it cannot be taken in hand until the revised settlement is completed and sanctioned.

Panch Maháls.

16. The rate in this division was higher than last year, but it was due to clearing the boundary line completely and permanently by removing stumps of the cut trees.

In addition to the above, an amount of Rs. 128-2-0 was spent in the divisions for repairing old boundary-marks.

(iv).—SURVEYS.

17. The following statement, received from the Forest Survey, gives the work and its cost during the forest year of 1896-97 with cost:—

Division.	BOUNDARY SURVEYS.		Total Cost.	REMARKS.
	Previous.	Of the year.		
	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Rs. a. p.	
<i>Surat.</i>				
Triangulation 8" ... ..	...	141	} 979 13 11	{ Mándvi Taluka.
Traversing ... ..	...	10		
<i>North Tháná.</i>				
Detail Survey 8" ... ..	...	51.71	9,635 6 8	Máhim Taluka.
Total cost ... ..	...	...	10,615 4 7	

CHAPTER II.

MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

I.—REGULATION AND MANAGEMENT.

(a).—WORKING PLANS AND THEIR CONTROL.

18. The Working Plans Division was in charge of the following officers during the year:—

1st July 1896 to 12th November 1896	...	Mr. J. Dodgson.
13th November 1896 to 21st December 1896	...	Mr. T. R. D. Bell.
22nd December 1896 to 25th January 1897	...	Mr. R. C. Wroughton.
26th January 1897 to 30th June 1897	...	Mr. G. P. Millett.

Mr. Millett, the permanent Working Plans Officer, was on furlough from 1st July 1896, but he returned within the period of his leave and resumed charge of the division from the 25th January 1897.

19. During the year the Working Plans for the forests of the Godhra Mahál in the Panch Maháls Division and Máhim, Bassein and Vádá of the Tháná District were sanctioned by Government. The proposals for the Working Plan of the Kálol Mahál are before Government. The Working Plan of the Tulsi forests belonging to the Municipality of Bombay was prepared and submitted during the year and is also before Government.

20. The forests of the Hálol Mahál, Panch Maháls Division, were examined during the year with a view to the drawing up of a Working Plan for their management, but it was not completed before the close of the year.

21. A Working Plan also for the forests of the Sálsette and Kalyán Ranges of the Tháná District was under preparation, but was not completed.

22. In addition to this work the Working Plan Officer during the year supervised the working on the ground of the coupes in the Dáhánu, Máhim and Bassein Ranges. He also supervised the reserve marking in some of the Godhrá coupes in order that the Extra Assistant Mr. Ránade might obtain some idea of the work which he had to carry out throughout the Range under the Working Plan. Finally he supervised the marking on the ground by the Working Plan surveyors both of coupes of the year and in advance in the Tháná Divisions.